

Timeline of Important Dates

1638 The first enslaved Africans were brought to Boston aboard the slave ship, *The Desire*.

1783 Slavery was abolished in Massachusetts.

1806 The African Meeting House was built. The African Meeting House was the center of the free African American community of Boston.

1831 William Lloyd Garrison began publication of *The Liberator*. This weekly abolitionist newspaper ran until slavery was abolished in the nation in 1865.

1835 The Abiel Smith School, the first public school house solely built for the education of African Americans, opened on Joy Street.

1850 The Fugitive Slave Law was passed in Congress.

1851 Fugitive Slave Shadrach Minkins was arrested by slave catchers then rescued from the Courthouse by Bostonians on February 15th.

1855 Massachusetts integrated the public schools.

1861 The Civil War began.

1863 The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln and the Massachusetts 54th Regiment was formed.

1865 The Civil War ended and slavery was abolished nationwide.